Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (newly amended) A cover for covering a central portion of a wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axes ~~axis~~, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, ~~said flats defining a minimum radius R1 of a central portion of said lug nuts~~ and said corners defining a maximum radius ~~R2~~ of said central portion of said lug nuts, said lug nuts each having a first end directed toward said wheel while said lug nut is threaded on one of said studs, said first end having a tapered surface, said cover comprising ~~said lug nuts having a tapered lower surface, said cover comprising~~

a first retainer member having a planar portion for contacting a first and a second adjacent ones of said lug nuts, said planar portion having a surface perpendicular to said axis while in contact with said lug nuts,

a second retainer member having a planar portion for contacting said first and said second adjacent ones of said lug nuts, said planar portion having a surface perpendicular to said axis while in contact with said lug nuts,

one of said first and second retainer members having a first indentation defining a shape ~~radius less than R2~~ for fitting against said tapered surface ~~portion~~ of said first lug nut ~~for fitting~~ and between ~~under~~ said corners ~~thereof~~, and an outer surface of said wheel,

one of said first and second retainer members having a second indentation defining a shape ~~radius less than R2~~ for fitting against said tapered surface ~~portion~~ of said second lug nut and between ~~for fitting under~~ ~~the~~ said corners ~~thereof;~~ and an outer surface of said wheel, and

means for rigidly locking and unlocking said first retainer member to said second retainer member.

2. (canceled)

3. (newly amended) A cover in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means for rigidly locking and unlocking is a screw threaded into a nut.

4. (newly amended) A cover in accordance with claim 1 wherein

said said first retainer member has first and second indentations with both said first and second indentations defining an arcuate shape ~~a radius less than R2~~ and said first and second indentation are spaced apart a distance for fitting said arcuate shapes around said tapered ~~lower~~ surfaces of adjacent ones of said lug nuts, and

said second retainer member has third and fourth indentations with both said third and fourth indentations defining an arcuate shape ~~a radius less than R2~~ and said third and fourth indentations are spaced apart a distance for fitting said arcuate shapes around said tapered ~~lower~~ surfaces of said adjacent ones of said lug nuts.

5. (canceled)

6. (newly amended) A cover for covering a central portion of a wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axis, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, ~~said flats defining a minimum radius R1 of a central portion of said lug nuts and~~ said corners defining a maximum radius ~~R2~~ of said central portion of said lug nuts, said lug nuts each having a first end directed toward said wheel while said lug nut is threaded on one of said studs, said first end having a tapered surface, said cover comprising ~~said lug nuts having a tapered lower surface, said cover comprising~~

a first retainer member having a planar portion for contacting a first and second adjacent ones of said lug nuts said planar portion having a surface perpendicular to said axis while in contact with said lug nuts,

a second retainer member having a planar portion for contacting said first and said second adjacent ones of said lug nuts, said planar portion having a surface perpendicular to said axis while in contact with said lug nuts,

said first and second retainer members each having a first arcuate shaped indentation ~~defining a radius less than R2~~ for fitting against said tapered portion of said first lug nut and a second arcuate shaped indentation ~~defining a radius less than R2~~ for fitting against said tapered portion of said second lug nut, and

means for rigidly locking and unlocking said first retainer member to said second retainer member for retaining said indentations of said retainer members against said tapered portions of said lug nuts.

7. (canceled)

8. (newly amended) A cover in accordance with claim 6 wherein said means for rigidly locking and unlocking is a screw threaded into a nut.

9. (newly amended) A cover for covering a central portion of a hub piloted wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain

said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axes ~~axis~~, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, and having a first end directed toward said wheel while said lug nut is threaded on one of said studs, said first end having a first annular bead ~~rearward of said flats and said corners and~~ having a first maximum radius ~~R1~~, a second annular bead spaced from ~~rearward of~~ said first annular bead and having a second maximum radius ~~R2~~, and a groove between said first annular bead and said second annular bead, ~~said groove having a radius R3 less than R1 and R2,~~ said cover comprising

a first generally planar retainer member for contacting a first and a second adjacent ones of said lug nuts while said generally planar member is perpendicular to said axis,

a second generally planar retainer member for contacting said first and said second adjacent ones of said lug nuts while said generally planar member is perpendicular to said axis,

one of said first and second retainer members having a first arcuate indentation ~~defining a radius R4 less than R1 and R2~~ for fitting in said groove of said first of said adjacent lug nuts,

one of said first and second retainer members having a second indentation ~~defining a radius R5 less than R1 and R2~~ for fitting in said groove of said second of said adjacent lug nuts, and

means for fixedly retaining said first retainer member to said second retainer member with said first indentation in said groove of said first lug nut and said second indentation in said groove of said second lug nut.

10. (canceled)

11. (newly amended) A cover in accordance with claim 9 wherein said means for rigidly retaining ~~locking~~ is a screw threaded into a nut.

12. (newly amended) A cover for covering a central portion of a hub piloted wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axis, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, and having a first end directed toward said wheel while said lug nut is threaded on one of said studs, said first end having a first annular bead ~~rearward of said flats and said corners and~~ having a first maximum radius ~~R1~~, a second annular bead and spaced from ~~rearward of~~ said first annular bead and having a second maximum radius ~~R2~~, and a groove between said first annular bead and said second annular bead, said groove having a radius ~~R3~~ less than said first maximum radius said second maximum radius ~~R1 and R2~~, said cover comprising

a retainer member having a planar portion with an arcuate indentation ~~defining a radius R4 less than R1 and R2~~ for fitting in said groove of one of said lug nuts, said planar portion having a surface perpendicular to said axis while said arcuate indentation is fitted in said grove, and

means for rigidly retaining said retainer member with said indentation against said groove.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)